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Letter dated 20 February 2003 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the open formal meeting of the Security Council held on 18 and 19 February 2002 to consider the item "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait" and, in particular, the briefings by Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), respectively, on inspections and on Iraq's compliance with resolution 1441 (2002) calling for the total elimination of that country's weapons of mass destruction.

On instructions from my Government, I attach a communiqué setting forth El Salvador's position on the Iraq situation and on the level of Iraq's compliance with its international obligations pursuant to resolution 1441 (2002) and other Security Council resolutions on the disarmament of that country (see annex). I should be grateful if that communiqué could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Victor Manuel **Lagos Pizzati**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 February 2003 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Position of the Government of El Salvador in the framework of the Security Council debate on the Iraq situation: New York, 19 February 2003

The Government of El Salvador expresses its deep concern at the failure of the Government of Iraq to comply with its clear disarmament obligations deriving from the relevant Security Council resolutions. Such non-compliance poses a serious threat to global peace and security.

The Government of Iraq must therefore proceed without further delay to cooperate immediately, actively and unconditionally with the inspectors on all matters of substance.

El Salvador is a peace-loving country and believes in the multilateral system. The Government of El Salvador trusts that the Security Council will, at the proper time, take whatever decisions are necessary to restore the security and tranquillity to which our peoples are rightfully entitled.